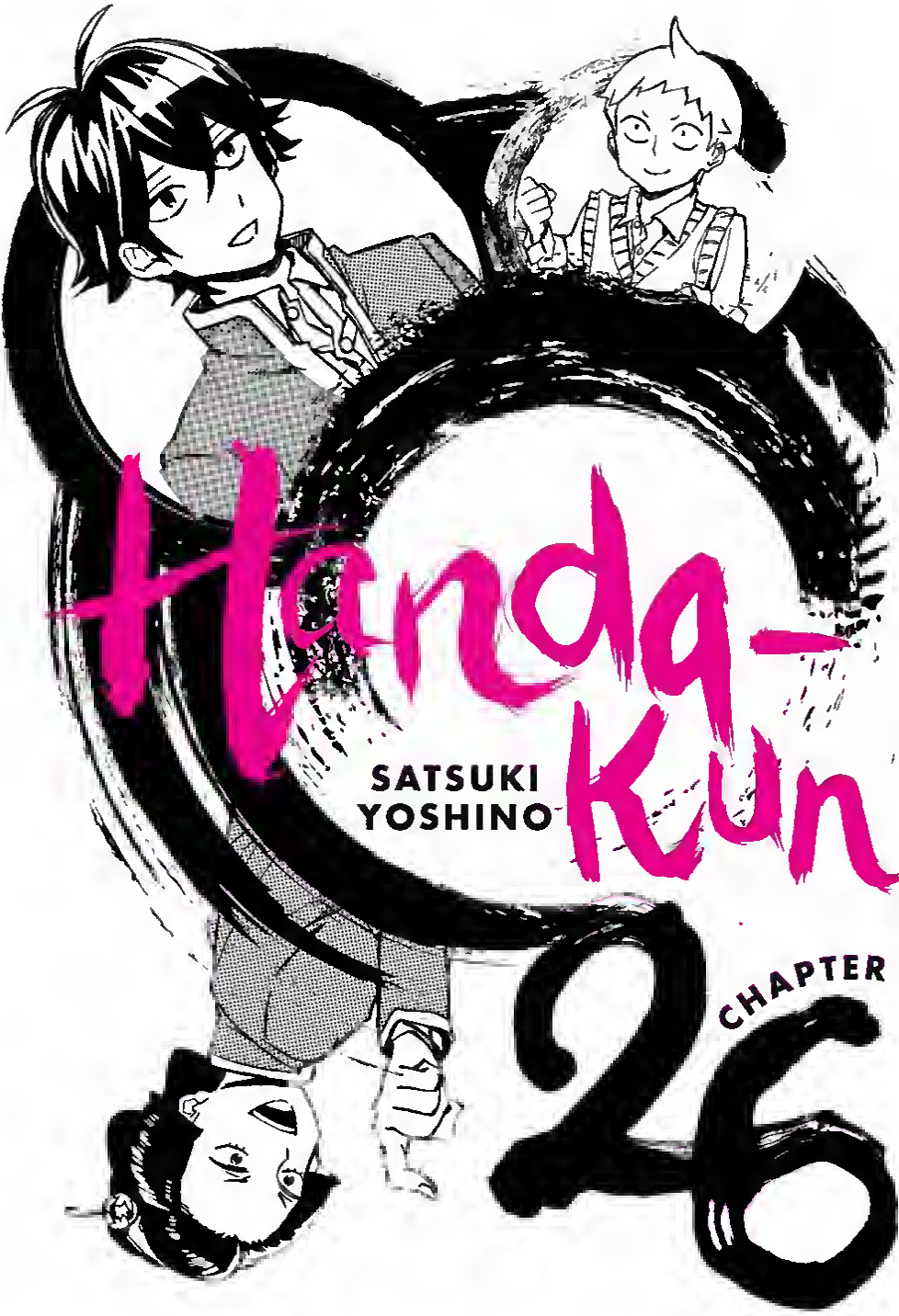
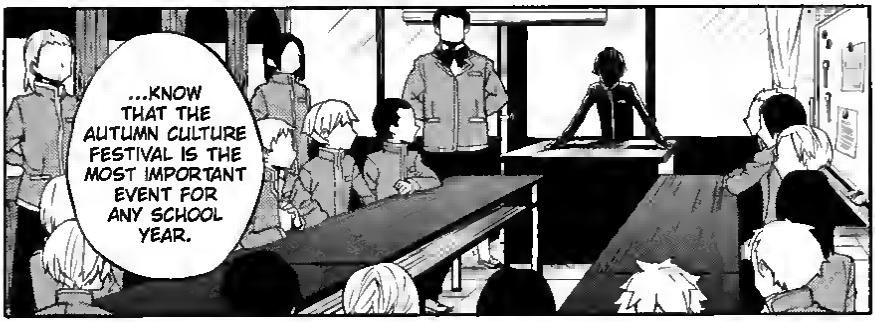
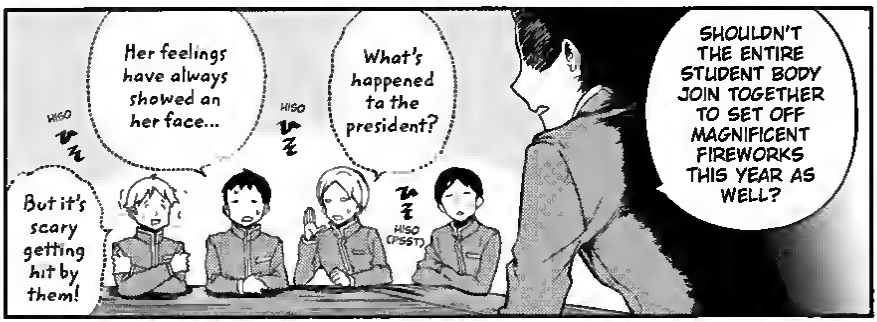
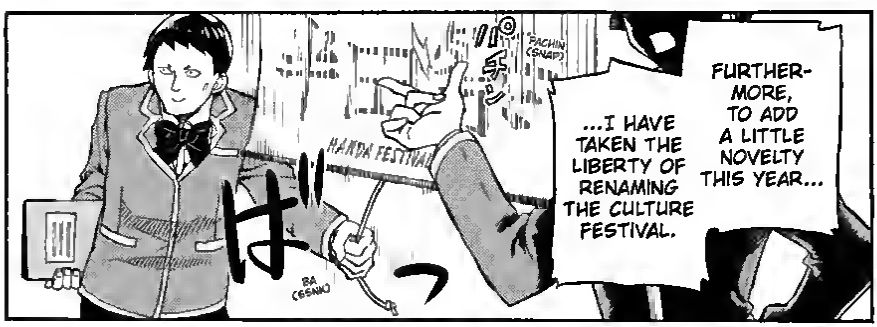

Handa-Kun
SATSUKI YOSHINO
CHAPTER 26

SIGN: STUDENT COUNCIL ROOM

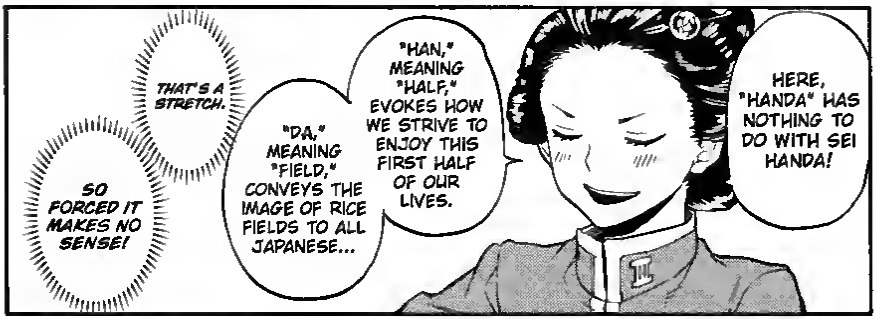



Her feelings have always showed an her face...
HISO
What's happened ta the president?
HISO
But it's scary getting hit by them!
HISO (PSST)
SHOULDN'T THE ENTIRE STUDENT BODY JOIN TOGETHER TO SET OFF MAGNIFICENT FIREWORKS THIS YEAR AS WELL?


HANABI FESTIVAL
はっ
PACHIN (SNAP)
PA (CRANK)
...I HAVE TAKEN THE LIBERTY OF RENAMING THE CULTURE FESTIVAL.
FURTHER-MORE, TO ADD A LITTLE NOVELTY THIS YEAR...

半田祭
HANDA FESTIVAL
IT WILL NOW BE CALLED...
...THE "HANDA FESTIVAL"!
ばぁん
AND WHY THAT HAIR-STYLE?
TOO OBVI-OUS!!
FAR TOO OBVIOUS, PRESI-DENT!
HOW ARE WE SUPPOSED TO RESPOND?

I HEARD SOMETHING ABOUT HOW CLASS 2-7'S SOUVENIR WAS AN ORNATE HAIRPIN.
OH, THAT CUSTOM OF BUYING A SOUVENIR FOR THE PRESIDENT?
MY CLASS GOT HER ONE ANYWAY...
WELL? ISN'T THAT A FINE NAME?


HERE, "HANDA" HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH SEI HANDA!
"HAN," MEANING "HALF," EVOKES HOW WE STRIVE TO ENJOY THIS FIRST HALF OF OUR LIVES.
"DA," MEANING "FIELD," CONVEYS THE IMAGE OF RICE FIELDS TO ALL JAPANESE...
THAT'S A STRETCH.
SO FORCED IT MAKES NO SENSE!

UH, PRESIDENT? INCLUDING A PERSON'S NAME LIKE THAT...
IT'S NOT A GOOD IDEA.
NOSSAAA (SCRUFFFY)
I TOLD YOU!
IT'S NOT FROM SEI HANDA'S NAME!
HEH HEH HEH.
THAT'S OUR HANDA-KUN, WITH JUST ONE ORNATE HAIRPIN. HE'S GRASPED THE PRESIDENT'S HEART.

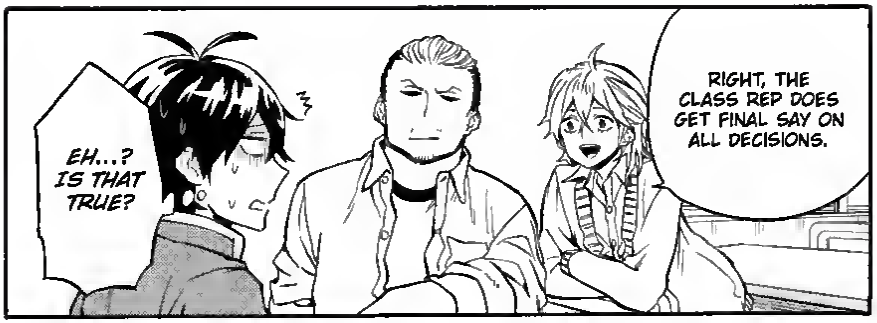
YOU MAY BE A TEACHER, BUT IT'S STILL FOOLISH TO REPROACH ME AS A WOMAN.
UH, NO... IT'S NOT ABOUT YOU BEING A GIRL...
MALE SCUM!
THE LEAD ROLE IN THIS YEAR'S CULTURE FESTIVAL IS SET TO GO TO OUR CLASS.

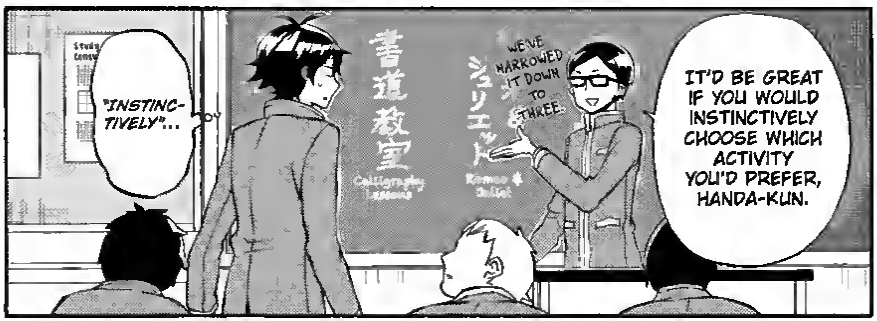
AFTER SCHOOL
OUR COUNCIL PRESIDENT CONCEDED...
...AND RENAMED THE CULTURE FESTIVAL TO THE "SEISHUU," OR "CLEAR AUTUMN," FESTIVAL.
清秋祭
*SEISHUU (Clear Autumn) FESTIVAL
DOESN'T THAT NAME EVOKE A CLEAR, REFRESHING AUTUMN DAY?
Hey, isn't "Seishuu" Handa-kun's pen name?
It's not a pen name—it's a nom de plume.
FOR REAL!?
I WANT TO LEAVE SOON.
THE FESTIVAL NAME CONTAINS "SEI," THE FIRST NAME OF OUR CLASS REP, HANDA-KUN...
...SO WE'RE AIMING TO WIN THE TITLE OF "BEST CLASS"!
THE CLASS REP OF THE BEST CLASS...
...WILL RECEIVE THE HONOR OF BEING CROWNED KING OF THE SCHOOL ONSTAGE.
UWAH... NO WAY AM I DOING THAT...

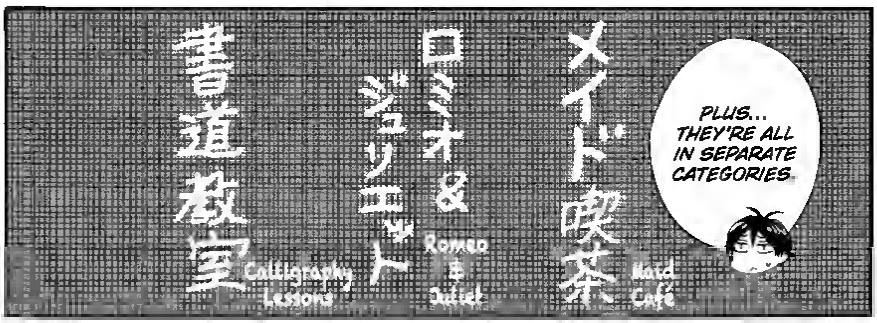
OH! OH! I KNOW!
OKAY, LET'S DECIDE ON OUR CLASS ACTIVITY FOR THE CONTEST.
TOO CLICHÉ, REO-KUN.
WHAA!
...YOU THINK MAID CAFÉ! AM I RIGHT?
WHEN YOU THINK CULTURE FESTIVAL...
WOULDN'T IT BE BETTER IF WE WENT WITH SOMETHING A LITTLE MORE UNCONVENTIONAL INSTEAD?
I WANNA DRESS LIKE A GIRL!
ISN'T THAT WHERE GUYS DRESS UP AS GIRLS?
FORGET IT.
CUSTOMERS AND STAFF IN BRUTAL COMBAT, MANO A MANO!
WHAT KIND OF CAFÉ IS THAT?
LIKE A FISTFIGHT CAFÉ!

I'D LOVE TO TRY MAKING THOSE COS-TUMES.
YEAH, LIKE ROMEO AND JULIET!
ERASER
I'D LOVE IT IF WE COULD DO SOMETHING THEATRICAL!
GLASSES
DO YOU WANT TO DRESS LIKE A GIRL THAT BADLY?
WAIT, YOU'RE GONNA BE JULIET?
WHAT ARE YOU SAD ABOUT?
I'D LOVE TO SHOW EVERYONE MY JULIET.
THAT'D BE NICE TOO.
HMM, LET'S SEE...
ANY IDEAS, YUKI-KUN?
AM TOO CUTE!
SUPER CUTE!
YOU'RE NOT AS CUTE AS YOU THINK.
I HAVE TOTAL CONFIDENCE I'D BE CUTER THAN ANY GIRL.
ANY IDEA OF YUKICCHI'S WOULD BE WAY CLICHÉ.
YEAH, IT'S CLICHÉ.
THAT'S OUR YUKI-KUN!
A HAUNTED HOUSE!

WHAT'S THIS "LEAD ROLE"?
NAH, WE COULD ALL COOPERATE TO MAKE THE LEAD ROLE LOOK GOOD.
SHOULDN'T WE HAVE AN ACTIVITY THAT MAKES THE LEAD ROLE STAND OUT MORE?
HAVE A YOGA TOURNAMENT!
DO A DANCE PARADE THROUGH THE SCHOOL!
...THIS IS GOING TO DRAG ON.
BOOO (ZONE)
SEEMS LIKE...
LET'S DO BARBECUE!
THE TALE OF MOMOTAROU!
DD ZOMBIE MAKEUP!
A HOST CLUB!
MAKE A MUSEUM!
OKAY...
JUST GET IT OVER WITH.
AND I'M SUPPOSED TO MEET UP WITH KAWAFUJI TODAY..
!?
BA (TSUBA)
...WE'LL HAVE HANDA-KUN SETTLE THIS AS CLASS REPRESENTATIVE.


EH...? IS THAT TRUE?
RIGHT, THE CLASS REP DOES GET FINAL SAY ON ALL DECISIONS.


"INSTINCTIVELY"...
WE'VE NARROWED IT DOWN TO THREE.
書道教室
Calligraphy Lessons
ロミオ&ジュリエット
Romeo & Juliet
IT'D BE GREAT IF YOU WOULD INSTINCTIVELY CHOOSE WHICH ACTIVITY YOU'D PREFER, HANDA-KUN.


書道教室
Calligraphy Lessons
ロミオ&ジュリエット
Romeo & Juliet
メイド喫茶
Maid Cafe
PLUS... THEY'RE ALL IN SEPARATE CATEGORIES.

URK!
I'M PICKING UP ALL THEIR THOUGHTS!
MONTAGUE.
ROMEO.
GIRLS' CLOTHES.
MAID OUTFITS.
WELCOME, MASTER.

IT'S FINE FOR YOU TO TAKE YOUR TIME DECIDING.
I DON'T MIND IF IT TAKES UNTIL EVENING...
...OR EVEN UNTIL MORNING.
DON'T PRESSURE ME...
ロミオ&ジュリエット
Romeo & Juliet
書道教室
Calligraphy Lessons
メイド喫茶
Maid Café
MY GUT SAYS...
WAIT...
...IF I CHOOSE THE ONE OBVIOUSLY DIRECTED AT ME, I'LL HAVE A REVOLT ON MY HANDS.
BUT NOBODY WANTS TO SEE ME DRESSED LIKE A GIRL...
AND I'VE NEVER ACTED BEFORE...

HANDA-KUN'S IN TROUBLE.
ARRRGH!
I HAVE TO HELP HIM SOMEHOW!
I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO KNOWS THAT HANDA-KUN IS AN INTROVERT.
KONDOU, THE GUY WHO HATES ME MOST!
MRGH.
CASUALLY OFFER HELP...
SAY, HANDA-KUN...
WHAT THE HELL DID YOU JUST THROW AT ME!?
ZAWA (MURMUR)
ザワッ
...YOU LIKE MUSICALS, DON'T YOU?

MUSICALS?
IS THAT TRUE, HANDA-KUN?
EH!?
UH...
HUH... HOW UNEXPECTED!
SINCE MUSICALS ARE POPULAR...
...THIS SHOULD GIVE HANDA-KUN A MORE CHEERFUL IMAGE.
YOU CAN DO IT, HANDA-KUN!
HE'S GRINNING AT ME...
IT'S KINDA SURPRISING, BUT I'LL GO AHEAD AND WRITE IT IN.
DON'T ADD EVEN MORE CHOICES!
CRAP... WHAT DO I DO?
I WANT TO LEAVE ASAP...
...BUT I JUST CAN'T DECIDE!
TAKE YOUR TIME.

EH?
I WANNA GO TO THE CAFÉ...
BOSO (MUTTER)
IT'S GETTING CLOSE TO THE TIME WHEN I'D NORMALLY BE CHATTING WITH KAWAFUJI AT OUR USUAL CAFÉ.
メイド喫茶
Maid Café
Romeo & Juliet
Musical
A DRESS WOULD BE GREAT...
I'M NOT —
NOOO! I WANTED TO SEE HIM ACT!
EH!?
UH!
EHH? HANDA-KUN IN WOMEN'S CLOTHES?
CAFÉ!?
YOU MEAN THE MAID CAFÉ!?
BUT WON'T HE LOOK GREAT IN A SKIRT?
...JULIET.
A COOLER LOOK WOULD BE NICER...
...MAID...
NOO!
WHAA!?
CAFÉ!?
...THERE'S THE ISSUE OF EXPOSURE.
ROMEO AND...
BUT WITH THE SKIRT PART...
BAM (CRUSH)
BATH-ROOM BREAK!
I CAN'T TAKE ANY MORE!
SO WHICH ONE IS IT?

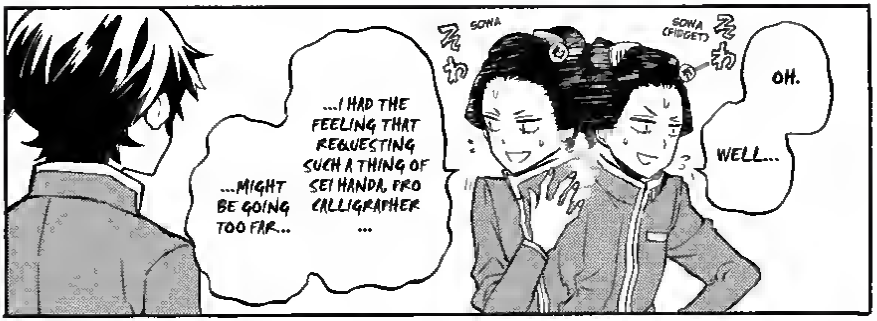
HANDA-KUN!
HEY, WAIT!
UWAAAH!
DA DASHO
WHY DID HANDA-KUN GET SO WORKED UP?
HE WAS TRYING TO CONSIDER ALL OUR PREFERENCES, AND IT MADE HIM PANIC.
COULD YOU REALLY SEE HANDA-SAN DOING THAT!?
HE'S A MAN AMONG MEN!
BUT HANDA'S MORE HUMAN SIDE HAS ITS OWN CHARM.
IT WAS SELFISH OF US TO LEAVE THE WHOLE THING UP TO HANDA-KUN IN THE FIRST PLACE.
UH... YOU'RE THE ONE WHO TOLD US TO.

UH, WHY NOT BY MAJORITY VOTE, LIKE NORMAL?
BUT EVEN THOUGH HANDA COULDN'T DECIDE, IT DOESN'T MEAN WE CAN DECIDE OURSELVES.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
PIIN (FLASH)
THE ANSWER LIES IN THE FACT THAT HANDA-KUN COULDN'T SETTLE ON ONE!
I SEE NOW!
OH?
KAAAN (CLASH)
KA (CLICK)
DO THIS ...
...LIKE THIS...
OHHHHH!
2-7
AND NOW IT'S RESOLVED!

I'M DAMNED IF I DO, DAMNED IF I DON'T.
.....SIGH... WHAT A DILEMMA.
...BUT I'M AFRAID OF CRITICISM...
I COULD PROBABLY JUST PICK ONE OF THEM AND DISCARD THE REST...
SIGH...
IF I PICKED THE CALLIGRAPHY LESSONS, THERE'D BE SOME SERIOUS SEI-BASHING.
...SEI HANDA.
YOU'RE CERTAINLY LOST IN THOUGHT...
I CAN'T GO BACK THERE.

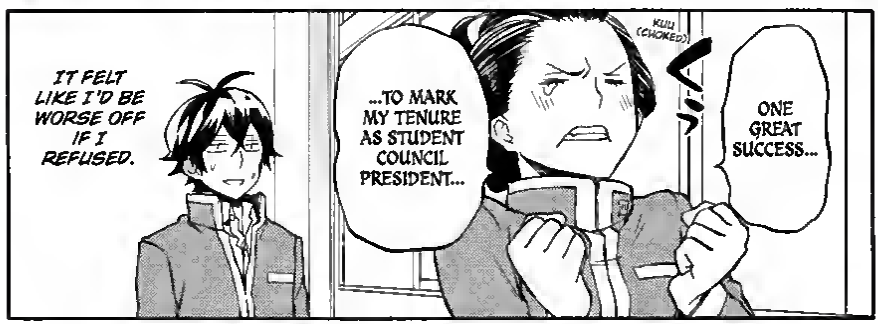
!?
IS SOME-THING ON YOUR MIND?
I'M NOT GOING TO MAKE YOU WEAR A SKIRT TODAY.
UH, YOUR HEAD!?
HEH. THERE'S NO NEED TO WORRY.
EH... PRESI-DENT...?
WHAT'S ON YOUR HEAD?
THAT HAIR-STYLE IS WEIRD!
I COULDN'T MAKE THE FINAL DECISION...
UH, NO...
HAS YOUR CLASS ACTIVITY BEEN DECIDED?

IT'S TOUGH HAVING TO STAND ABOVE OTHER PEOPLE.
YOU TAKE A ROLE HATED BY OTHERS...
...AND MUST GIVE THE ANSWER THAT BEST SUITS EVERYONE.
IT'S ALSO NECESSARY TO MERCILESSLY DISCARD PEOPLE'S OPINIONS AND FOMENT REVOLUTION.
IS THAT HAIRSTYLE DUE TO A REVOLUTION!?
COULD YOU WRITE CALLIGRAPHY FOR ME?
I'LL ENTRUST YOU WITH ALL THE WRITING...
...ON THE DECORATIVE SIGNS AND PAMPHLETS FOR THE SEISHUU FESTIVAL.


SONA
SONA (FIDGET)
OH.
WELL...
...I HAD THE FEELING THAT REQUESTING SUCH A THING OF SEI HANDA, PRO CALLIGRAPHER ...
...MIGHT BE GOING TOO FAR...

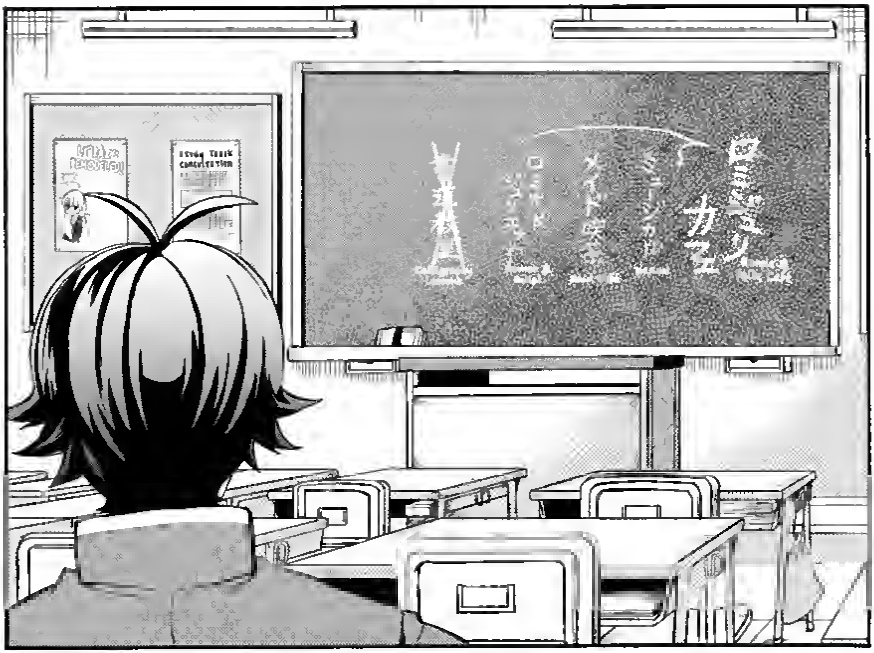
ASSARI (READILY)
NO, I'LL DO IT.
I-I WON'T MIND AT ALL IF YOU REFUSE MY REQUEST.

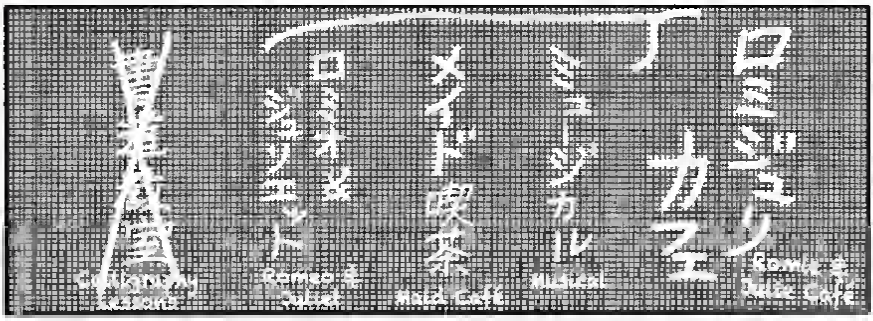
SURE...
WHICH HANDA?
...SAID HE'LL DO IT!?
!?
R-REALLY!? THAT HANDA...


IT FELT LIKE I'D BE WORSE OFF IF I REFUSED.
...TO MARK MY TENURE AS STUDENT COUNCIL PRESIDENT...
KUU (CHOKED)
ONE GREAT SUCCESS...

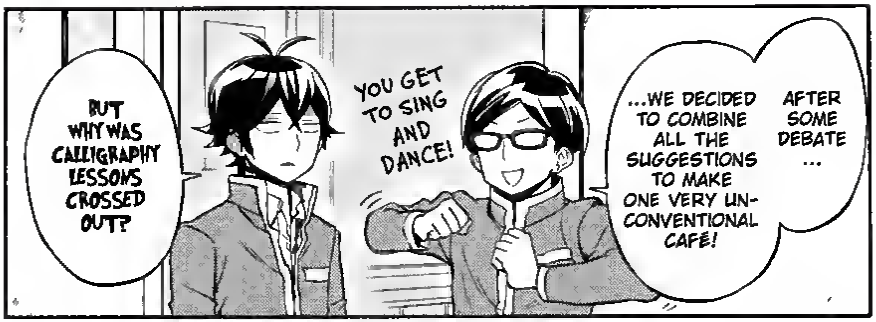
THAT'S A PROMISE, RIGHT, SEI HANDA?
I'LL PASS ON THE DETAILS TO AIZAWA.
BE READY TO WORK.
SURE ...
I APPRECI-ATE THIS.
AHH HA HA HA
HA...
WE WERE WATCHING!
YOU GOT THROUGH IT, SAWA-CHAN!

AND, NOW I'VE ENDED UP APPRECIATED.
...TO ENTRUST THE JOB TO ME.
CONGRATU-LATIONS!
I DID IT! I ACTUALLY DID IT!
YOU'RE A WOMAN AMONG WOMEN!!
...MUST HAVE DISCARDED A LOT OF OPPOSING OPINIONS...
THAT, PRESIDENT...
...I'LL CONFIDENTLY INSIST ON THE ACTIVITY I WANT.
SINCE I ALSO GET FINAL SAY ON DECISIONS...
TEST SCORE
BIG RECRUITMENT
I HAVE... ...DE-CIDED!
GATA (RATTLE)
CALLIGRAPHY LESSONS...
...ARE THE ONLY THING I CAN DO!!

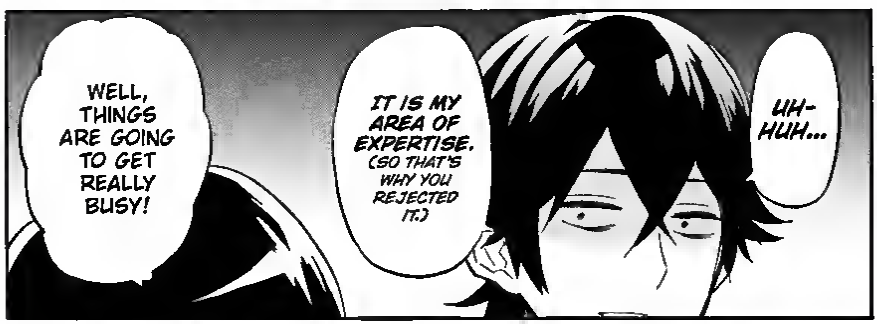



Romantic Tales Cafe
Musical Cafe
Maid Cafe
Ramune Soldier
Fantasy Cafe

HYOI (CHOP)
ひょい
OH, HANDA-KUN!
WE DECIDED ON THE ACTIVITY, SO EVERYONE LEFT.


AFTER SOME DEBATE ...
...WE DECIDED TO COMBINE ALL THE SUGGESTIONS TO MAKE ONE VERY UN-CONVENTIONAL CAFÉ!
YOU GET TO SING AND DANCE!
BUT WHY WAS CALLIGRAPHY LESSONS CROSSED OUT?

OH, CALLIGRAPHY ISN'T SOMETHING EVERYBODY CAN DO.
IT'S YOUR AREA OF EXPERTISE, HANDA-KUN.
(MEANING YOU'D GET STUCK WITH BEING IN CHARGE...)


UH-HUH...
IT IS MY AREA OF EXPERTISE. (SO THAT'S WHY YOU REJECTED IT.)
WELL, THINGS ARE GOING TO GET REALLY BUSY!

WE'LL HAVE TO WORK OVERTIME, STARTING TOMORROW.
SO LET'S DO OUR BEST!
.....
OKAY?

HUH...
SO YOUR CLASS ALSO PICKED AN ACTIVITY ALREADY.
マウンテン
SIGNS: CAFÉ MOUNTAIN
WELL, WE WERE HAVING TROUBLE DECIDING...
YOURS PICKED ONE TOO, KAWAFUJI?
...SO I PICKED SOMETHING OFF THE TOP OF MY HEAD.
I'LL BE DOING PERFORMANCE CALLIGRAPHY IN THE SCHOOL YARD.
I CAN MANAGE SO LONG AS I HAVE THE TOOLS.
INK
...I WANT TO BE YOU, KAWAFUJI.
SEISHUU FESTIVAL
清秋祭
AH-HA-HA-HA! WHY SO SERIOUS?
SURE, YOU CAN LOOK UP TO ME MORE!

TO BE CONTINUED IN THE NEXT CHAPTER OF HANDA-KUN!

COMMON HONORIFICS

no honorific Indicates familiarity or closeness; if used without permission or reason, addressing someone in this manner would constitute an insult.

-san The Japanese equivalent of Mr./Mrs./Miss. If a situation calls for politeness, this is the fail-safe honorific.

-sama Conveys great respect; may also indicate that the social status of the speaker is lower than that of the addressee.

-kun Used most often when referring to boys, this indicates affection or familiarity. Occasionally used by older men among their peers, but it may also be used by anyone referring to a person of lower standing.

-chan An affectionate honorific indicating familiarity used mostly in reference to girls; also used in reference to cute persons or animals of either gender.

-sensei A Japanese term of respect commonly used for teachers, but can also refer to doctors, writers, and artists.

PAGE 4

Seishoo Though the new name for the festival is pronounced the same as Hondo's nom de plume, it uses a different second character meaning "autumn" instead of one meaning "boat."

Handa-kun

Chapter 26

Satsuki Yoshino

Translation/Adaptation: Krista Shipley, Karie Shipley
Lettering: Lys Blakeslee

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